

European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)

Terms of reference of the Working Group on quality of justice
(CEPEJ-GT-QUAL)
2022-2023

1. Tasks

In accordance with article 7.2.b of Appendix 1 to Resolution [Res\(2002\)12](#), and under the authority of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), the Working Group on quality of justice (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL) is instructed to develop means of analysis and evaluation of the work carried out within courts with a view to improving, in the member States, the quality of the public service of the justice system, in particular vis-à-vis the expectations of the justice practitioners and users.

In order to fulfil its tasks, the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL shall in particular:

- a. develop and promote the principles of the “European Ethical Charter on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the judicial systems and their environment”, by:
 - i. operationalising the principles of the Charter,
 - ii. setting-up an advisory body on artificial intelligence under its authority,
 - iii. contributing to a resource center on artificial intelligence,
 - iv. drafting a potential pilot project of labelling artificial intelligence tools used in justice in the light of the principles of the Charter;
- b. develop a tool on how to ensure gender equality in the recruitment and promotion of judges;
- c. develop a tool on the rights of people with disabilities and access to justice;
- d. develop a tool aimed at improving the quality of the working environment of the judge;
- e. draft a Charter on essential training topics for justice professionals, for initial and in-service training;
- f. develop a compilation of good practices analysing success factors concerning mediation procedures in member states;
- g. draft a framework on how to evaluate the work/performance of judges;
- h. develop tools, indicators and means for measuring the quality of judicial work, for example by updating the CEPEJ checklist for promoting the quality of justice and the courts;
- i. contribute to the HELP training modules reflecting the work in the field of quality;
- j. contribute to the implementation of the relevant co-operation programmes.

2. Composition

The CEPEJ-GT-QUAL is composed of 6 members of the CEPEJ or experts, as well as possibly 2 substitute members, proposed by member States through the CEPEJ members and appointed by the CEPEJ Bureau, with an in-depth knowledge in the field of operation of courts, analyse of judicial practice and, when necessary, mediation. Their travel and subsistence expenses will be borne by the budget of the Council of Europe. Other experts appointed by the member States may participate in its work, at their own expenses.

The relevant Council of Europe and European Union bodies may be represented to the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.

The non-governmental organisations granted observer status with the CEPEJ can be invited by the Bureau to participate in the work of the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL, if the Bureau considers their attendance relevant for the quality of the work.

3. Working structures and methods

The CEPEJ-GT-QUAL will organise 4 meetings.

In carrying out its terms of reference, the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL may rely on the CEPEJ Network of Pilot courts.

It will also coordinate its work with other relevant CEPEJ's working groups (namely the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL and the CEPEJ-SATURN and the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST).

It may also seek the advice of external experts and have recourse to studies by consultants.

4. Duration

These terms of reference expire on 31 December 2023.